

# Freshman elections changing this year

by Tracie L. Holub

**Battalion Staff**  
Freshman senator and class officer elections will be held Monday.  
Election co-commissioner, Pat Wood, says that this year's election will take on a new look.  
"The freshmen will still be voting for eight senators and five class officers, but the process of voting has changed this year," he said. "The layout has changed and the number of voting stations has decreased. We think that the different layout will give the elections a more efficient flow and be a lot quicker to go through."  
One of the changes is a decrease in polling places. Freshmen will be able to vote in only two locations instead of the previous nine. Wood said the Memorial Student Center main lounge and the Pavilion were picked as voting stations because of their central locations on campus.

"By picking these two locations we aren't trying to show favoritism to any one college," Wood said. "It is just that we think these two locations are places where many students are and where they will stop in for a few minutes while going to class and vote."  
Election co-commissioner, Teddy Dela Cruz, said this year's voting procedure also will change.  
"We won't be having people voting on the steps of Sbis or some other place this year," Dela Cruz said. "We plan on giving students a place where they can sit down to vote and a system of flow between stations."  
Wood said freshmen should bring their Texas A&M I.D. cards when they come to vote.  
"Their card will be punched at the first desk and they will be given back their card and a ballot," Wood said. "There will be tables they can sit at and vote and when they

are finished they will drop the ballot in a ballot box."  
"We think that by letting people go from one station to the next without running back and forth, the election will be more orderly and have a professional appearance. It will be a good set up and we'll have good locations that can handle a large flow."  
Wood said the quality of elections often determines the quality of candidates picked.  
"We think the professionalism of this system will get the students more involved in what is happening with their class officers and student senate," Wood said. "The most important thing to remember is that this is the whole campus' elections and not just some certain groups. We think the changes will increase confidence in the elections."  
"We'll just see how it goes; it will be a good way to see how things will work out since this system will be used for spring elections."

# Horsemen sponsoring riding for handicapped

by Pat Allen  
Battalion Reporter

The Texas A&M Horsemen's Association is sponsoring a Special Students Riding School for handicapped students in the Bryan and College Station Independent School Districts, Dr. Gary D. Potter, professor of animal science, says.  
The Special Students Riding School was established at Texas A&M in 1976 by the Horsemen's Association — a student organization that began in 1972 for horse-oriented students.  
As the Texas A&M horse program leader, Potter works closely with the Horsemen's Association and is a strong supporter of the Special Students Riding School.

that conduct the school as well. Everyone participating gets something out of it."  
The riding school is held at the Texas A&M Animal Science Pavilion on Jersey Street. A session will be held Saturday and Oct. 29th.  
Sherry McDonald, chairman of the Horsemen's Association, said 42 students ranging from ages three to 19 will participate in the school this year. Students' disabilities include muscular dystrophy, cerebral palsy, Down's syndrome and mental retardation.

"I'm not getting on him, he's bigger than me," Tasha said. "I ride the real little ponies but these big ones scare me."  
Cortney, 2, rides her horse like a pro. Her blonde ponytail bounces with each trot of her horse.  
"I ride all by myself," Cortney said. "I like to ride horses 'cause they're pretty and they like me."  
McDonald said, "All the people who volunteer to help really do work hard, and they're all giving their free time to be a part of this program. But when those kids light up when they ride those horses, then you know it's all worth it."  
The association also sponsors judging contests, horse care clinics and horse shows for the American Paint Horse Association and the American Quarter Horse Association.

"We assign three helpers per student, one as a group leader and two to walk on the sides of the horse as spotters," McDonald said. "Some of the more severely handicapped students will have a rider assist them."  
McDonald said the session begins with the student's being introduced to the horse and their helping the leaders saddle and brush the horse.  
Parental involvement also is an important part of the program. Some parents have brought their children to the

# Brown bag it today

Dr. Clifford Sherry will speak the effects of caffeine, nicotine, and alcohol at a brown bag seminar today at the College Station Community Center.  
"A brown bag seminar is just break from the normal lunch routine for people to come and talk on various issues," Community Center director Peggy Calliham says.

People are welcome to bring lunches to the center, and iced tea and punch will be served.  
"This is the first time we will have broken away from municipal issues," Calliham said. City related topics such as the bond issue and utilities usually are discussed, she said.  
After the Thanksgiving and

Christmas holidays, the center will take a different approach by having local entertainers at the seminars.  
Brown bag seminars are held each third or fourth Friday of the month.  
The seminar will be at 12:15 at the Community Center located at 1300 Jersey. There will be no cost to attend.

"Participating in this program is one of the most rewarding kinds of things you can do," Potter said. "These youngsters come out here and we get them on a horse. There is something therapeutic about riding a horse, I don't know what it is, but it sure does work."  
"It's an extremely positive influence on the college students

# Congress OKs wild life land

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — Congress Thursday approved \$1.5 million for land acquisition for the Rio Grande National Wildlife Refuge and \$1 million for the Antonio Missions National Historic Site.  
The \$1.5 million will be used to buy up blocks of native brush habitat along the lower Rio Grande in areas rapidly being cleared for citrus groves and agriculture.  
The money was part of the \$1.9 billion spending bill for the

Interior Department. The entire measure received final approval late Thursday after going back and forth between the House and Senate for approval on controversial items. It now goes to President Reagan for his signature.  
The Rio Grande Refuge is actually a series of non-contiguous areas along the river, being preserved as habitat for the white-winged dove and other endangered species. It is considered a satellite to the Santa Ana refuge headquartered in Alamo.

The San Antonio park commemorates 18th century Catholic frontier missions.  
The enrollment story in Thursday's Battalion should have referred to projections for the 1984-85 academic year.

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# Ma Bell's rate hearings to open as scheduled

**United Press International**  
AUSTIN — A Public Utility Commission judge Thursday ordered hearings on Southwest Bell's \$1.7 billion rate hike to open as scheduled on Monday with testimony from consumers and telephone company officials.  
Representatives of consumer city groups urged a postponement in the rate hearings, which were expected to continue for several weeks, because they said they had too little time to review a foot-high stack of documents filed by Bell this week.  
Attorneys for Bell argued, however, the hearings should begin on time because the commission stood to lose up to \$3 million a day beginning in January if the case were not settled before year's end.

hearings and report to the full PUC, which must issue a final ruling in the case by mid-April.  
"The public has a right to expect the commissioners, who are accountable to the public, to decide this critical issue instead of a series of hearing examiners who are not accountable to the pub-

lic," Mattox said in a written statement.  
Bell's requested rate hike could double or triple monthly residential phone bills. The PUC staff has recommended the company receive only slightly more than half of its request.

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In celebration of our Grand Opening, Grandy's will donate all proceeds from purchases on Saturday, October 22nd to Sheltering-Arms Children's Emergency Shelter.  
Sheltering-Arms is a non-profit shelter providing care to abused, abandoned or neglected children. The generosity of Bryan-College Station has enabled Sheltering-Arms to serve over 1,000 area children since opening in 1975.  
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